

Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

135th Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135th Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Mary Hinton (District 8), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond.

1) Public Comment: Joseph Martinez, LAUSD District 7 Field Deputy, encouraged stakeholders to attend the Wed. February 5 meeting at the Narbonne High School Auditorium, 24300 S. Western Avenue, at 6 p.m. to hear about the State of California's proposal for funding public schools, including the LAUSD, and to hear the community's thoughts on school budget priorities. The local control funding formula will impact certain local schools which need additional support.

2) Approval of the December 10 Board minutes: It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes and passed 10-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

3) Treasurer's report: In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reviewed the monthly expenditure report for December 2013. As of the end of December, total HGNNC expenditures of the \$37,000 allocated are \$13,866.36, with \$23,515.67 remaining. The more detailed "Expenditures to Date" form, dated January 13, 2014, was also attached. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 10-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's report.

4) Setting of meeting with Councilman Buscaino to discuss critical issues of the HGNNC: Richard Lee discussed the concern of many Board members that regular Board meetings with Councilman Buscaino are needed to encourage focus on the significant issues of the HGNNC, to better seek solutions, and to know what progress is being made. Richard suggested contacting the Council's scheduler to set up such a meeting for the end of March, ideally for a Saturday morning when more Board members would be available. In the meantime, the Board will compile its current list of items needing action.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 10-0-1 for Chair Delores Allmond to send such a letter to Councilman Buscaino.

5) Recommendation from the Planning and Land Use Committee on the revised proposal for 27 condominiums at 15812 S. Vermont Avenue in District 2 (TT-69586-CN): On Saturday December 14, the Planning and Land Use Committee met with developer Steve Stapakis so that he could review the revised proposal for the townhouse-style condominium project at 15812 S. Vermont Avenue. Because the City requires 10% of the units to be fully handicapped accessible, he has revised the project to incorporate those features and more handicapped parking spaces. Therefore, there will now be 27 units. The R1 property running north and south along the property line on the east side (next to the walls of the homes on Ainsworth) will become communal recreational space for the residents. A row of trees will be planted along the boundary wall to provide privacy. Due to the requested zone adjustment by Mr. Stapakis, this planning issue is now ZA-2013-4089-ZAA. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 11-0-0 to support the Planning and Land Use Committee's recommendation of support for the revised proposal for this project.

6) Position on File No. 13-1152-S1, City of L.A. restrictions on fracking for oil and gas: Many HGNNC stakeholders have a strong concern that if the Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project underground testing has discovered adequate oil and gas reserves, they will be extracted using hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Since the L.A. City Council has recently introduced a proposal to ban well stimulation activities, including hydraulic fracturing, within City limits until stronger safeguards are put in place, it

was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 11-0-0 to support File No. 13-1152-S1, send a letter, and file a CIS to that effect.

7) Position on the need for DOGGR (California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources) to have greater oversight of oil and gas-related activities and impacts: Due to the passage of SB4, the State Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) has been placed in charge of overseeing the study of “well stimulation activities,” also known as hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) to remove remaining petroleum and natural gas resources from ground within the State of California. Comments on the implementation of these new oversight responsibilities are being sought. Therefore, it was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Mary Hinton, and passed 11-0-0 to write a letter reflecting the Board’s position that DOGGR have stronger oversight capabilities for well stimulation activities including testing for oil and gas, have funding to hire adequate numbers of inspectors, and that the State of California institute an oil severance tax to fund the inspectors and other needed public services.

8) Letter to Councilman Buscaino and DOT on measures to mitigate illegal large-truck traffic on residential streets in District 4: District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins has noted an increasing number of 18-wheeled trucks and large trash trucks from four different companies using 135th Street, past the 135th Street School, as well as illegally cutting through the neighborhood both north and south on Hoover Street. The Council District 15 office says that the trucks cannot be blocked on 135th Street because it is listed as a State highway, according to Council District 15. They are looking into measures to more strongly indicate that Hoover Street, both north and south of 135th Street is posted as prohibited for large truck usage.

(Joan Jacobs left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.)

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 10-0-0 to write a letter of support for mitigating this type of vehicle traffic in District 4.

9) Report on the Budget Advocates: This item was tabled until the next meeting since Joan Jacobs had had to leave the meeting.

10) Report on HGNNC activities and events: The long-planned Figueroa Corridor Business Breakfast will take place on Thurs. January 16 at the WSS corporate headquarters, 13425 S. Figueroa Street. About 120 businesses, mostly industrial, have been identified and 24 have said they will attend.

The HGNNC Board election has been set for Tues. May 6 at the 135th Street School. The Ad Hoc Election Committee will attend a meeting with IEA Rashad Rucker on Thurs. January 23 to learn more details. The current goal for voting is an increase of 15%. At least four Board seats need to be contested.

The Board has not done any further work on the Strategic Plan for 2013-2014.

11) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of January 8: Octaviano Rios, Mayor’s representative for the Harbor Area, announced that he now holds open house hours at the San Pedro City Hall, 638 S. Beacon Street, San Pedro, CA 90731, every Wednesday from 2-5 p.m. Stakeholders can drop by or call (213) 473-2388 for an appointment. The Mayor has a Great Streets initiative and possibly the HGNNC can recommend that Imperial Highway be one of the 50 Great Streets. There will be three Mayor’s budget meetings, with one possibly in the Harbor Gateway or Watts area.

12) Announcements: Lydia Gutierrez, teacher and Board member of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, is running in the primary election for State Superintendent of Education on June 3. She discussed her background and qualifications and gave out campaign literature.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary